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S E C R E T MUSCAT 001230

SIPDIS

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DEPT FOR DS/IP/NEA, DS/IP/ITA, NEA/ARPI, NEA/EX DEPT ALSO FOR DS/DSS/OSAC, DS/ICI/PII, DS/IP/OPO, DS/DSS/CC, CA/OCS

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TAGS: AEMR ASEC AMGT PTER CASC KHLS KVPR MU EAC SUBJECT: EMBASSY MUSCAT EAC - 08/06/2005

REF: A. TDX-315/47352-05

1B. SECSTATE 144320
1C. SECSTATE 142641

1D. MUSCAT 1206

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission William R. Stewart. Reason: 1.4(c).

Summary

 $\P 1.$ (SBU) The Ambassador chaired a meeting of the Emergency Action Committee (EAC) on August 6 to review the Embassy's security posture following the extended local weekend. Members noted no substantive changes in the local security environment since the last meeting. Accordingly, the EAC agreed that the Embassy's already heightened security posture and force protection condition (FPCON) remain appropriate. End Summary.

Security Environment

- 12. (S/NF) On August 6, the Ambassador chaired a meeting of the full EAC to review the Embassy's security posture following the extended local weekend observed by the Omani government following the passing away of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd. The meeting opened with a discussion of the local security situation, which the EAC continued to characterize as stable. SIMO went on to raise regional reporting referencing Oman (reference A), but noted no/no new specific threat information. And with the exception of an August 4possible surveillance incident at the Chancery briefed by RSO (SIMAS #74658), members cited no other security incidents over the weekend.
- CONS briefed the EAC on the Department's updated (SBU) Worldwide Caution and Middle East/North Africa Public Announcements (reftels B and C), issued on August 2 and 4, CONS confirmed that the Public Announcements respectively. will be distributed via Warden Message to both the official and private American citizen communities. CONS also confirmed that there were no reported security incidents or security-related queries from the private American citizen community over the weekend.

Sustained Vigilance

(SBU) Prior to concluding the meeting, and consistent with the aforementioned Public Announcements, RSO reiterated that, despite the relative calm, members of the EAC must continue reinforcing to both their staffs and family members the need for vigilance regarding all aspects of personal security - to include maintaining a low profile, and remaining unpredictable and situationally aware. RSO further re-emphasized the importance of immediately reporting all suspicious activity or security-related incidents to Post One.

EAC Conclusion

(S/NF) The EAC concluded that there have been no substantive changes in the local security environment since the last meeting held on July 30 (reftel D). Accordingly, members agreed that the Embassy's already heightened security posture and FPCON remain appropriate. Embassy Muscat remains acutely aware of the need to monitor both the regional and local security and threat environments, and is prepared to take the necessary countermeasures should changes to either occur. AMB, DCM, P/E, A/MGT, RSO, ARSO, SIMO, CONS, MSG, DAO, OMC (USDR), and ECA (USCENTAF) participated in the meeting, which proceeded a meeting of the Visas Viper Committee. BALTIMORE